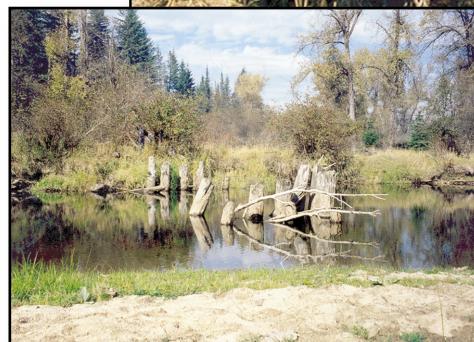
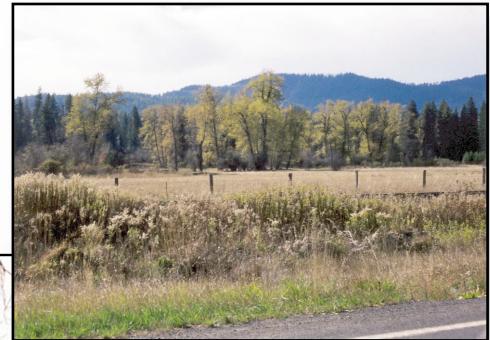


Emerald Creek Garnet

**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT
STATEMENT**

**Volume I
November 2003**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
ADT ^a	Average Daily Traffic	SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	TMDL	total maximum daily load
APE	area of potential effect	TSS	total suspended solids
AQD	Air Quality Division	U.S.	United States
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act	USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
BA	Biological Assessment	USC	United States Code
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis	USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
BLS	United States Bureau of Labor Statistics	USFS	United States Forest Service
BMP	Best Management Practice	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
CAA	Clean Air Act	USGS	United States Geological Survey
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority	V/C	volume-to-capacity
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps	VOC	volatile organic compound
CDC	Conservation Data Center	VQO	Visual Quality Objective
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations		
cfs	cubic feet per second		
CV	Cost/Valuation		
CWA	Clean Water Act		
dB	decibel		
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement		
DMP	Dredge Mining Permit		
DOT	Department of Transportation		
ECG	Emerald Creek Garnet Ltd.		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
EO	Executive Order		
ESA	Endangered Species Act		
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act		
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code		
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act		
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality		
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game		
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands		
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources		
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department		
L _{dn}	Day-Night Average Sound Level		
LEDPA	least environmentally-damaging practicable alternative		
LGP	Low Ground Pressure		
LWD	large woody debris		
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
mph	miles per hour		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act		
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service		
NOI	Notice of Intent		
NO _x	nitrogen dioxide		
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System		
NPS	nonpoint source		
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service		
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places		
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit		
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory		
O ₃	ozone		
OHWL	ordinary high water line		
OHWM	ordinary high water mark		
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration		
PCPI	per capita personal income		
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter		
ROD	Record of Decision		
ROI	Region of Influence		
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation		
SCS	Soil Conservation Service		

**Walla Walla District
Emerald Creek Garnet
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

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Comments: Public comments are sought on this Draft EIS. The official closing date for the receipt of comments is 45 days after the publication date.

Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and evaluate reasonable and practical alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project. Emerald Creek Garnet, Ltd. (ECG) proposes to mine garnet reserves within the St. Maries River floodplain near Fernwood, Idaho in Benewah and Shoshone Counties.

To proceed, ECG must obtain a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). ECG has mined garnet in 15 permit areas near Fernwood since 1992. There are four to seven years of mining remaining in these permit areas. Therefore, ECG proposes to dredge mine new areas of alluvial deposits of industrial garnet. The area proposed for garnet extraction contains wetlands that would be temporarily filled by construction of isolated berms, topsoil, overburden stockpiles, work pads and other discharges of dredged and fill material.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the evaluation and issuance of a 404 permit would be considered a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and therefore requires the preparation of an EIS. The USACE is analyzing six alternatives in this DEIS: Alternative 1 – No Action (no change from existing mining); Alternative 2 – Twelve Month Wet Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 3 – Twelve Month Wet and /Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 8 – Oxbow Avoidance, 84.3 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 9 – Oxbow Avoidance, 96.9 Acres of Wetland Mined; and Alternative 10 – Oxbow Avoidance, 108.9 Acres of Wetland Mined.

Emerald Creek Garnet

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Volume I

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